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KIRIN 1959 ECONOMIC PLAN

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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KIRIN 1959 ECONOMIC PLAN

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

Following is a translation of an unsigned article in the Chinese language newspaper Kirin Jih-pao, Ch'ang-ch'un, 5 March 1960, page 1.

In 1959, the national economy of Kirin, under the leadership of the Party and Chairman Mao, over filled the target of the 1959 economic plan. The success was attributed to: (a) strict adherence to the general policy for social construction, (b) the big leap speed of development, (c) the Peoples' Communes, (d) the mass movement against rightist tendencies, and, (e) an all-out production and economy drive. Therefore, in the wake of the 1958 big leap forward, an even better big leap forward in the economy of Kirin was achieved in 1959.

According to the provincial statistical bureau, the total value of production of industry and agriculture rose by 27.7% between 1958 and 59.

According to the provincial statistical bureau, the total value of production of industry and agriculture rose by 27.7% between 1958 and 59. There was a 32.2% increase in industrial output and a 17.2% rise in agricultural production (excluding certain subsidiary grains and transport earnings) in 1959 over the 1958 evaluation.

Progress in industrial output in 1959 was both widespread and rapid. Output of the ferrous metal industry during 1959 registered an increase of about 88% over the previous year; electric power industry, 20%; fuels, 27% (of these, coal, 43%); metal fabricating, 23%; construction materials, 58%; timber, 27%; chemicals, 48%; paper, 21%; textiles, 59%; and food, 25%.

In 1959, output of food grains and soybeans reached a high level of 14,200 million catties, an increase of 7.6% over the 1958 level. Among these, output of soybeans was higher by 21.2% and wheat rose 160%.

The pace as well as the scope of capital constructions in 1959 also surpassed any of the previous periods. Total basic construction investment was 35% higher than the level reached in the 1958 big leap forward, representing more than 1/3 of the total investment made during the First Five-Year Plan period.

Of the 34 national above-norm construction projects (excluding railways), 17 were completed or partially completed. Among the 1,756 below-norm projects to be undertaken at the county

level and above, 1,392 were completed in 1959. As a result of the above achievements, our productive capacity was greatly improved as supported by the following production figures: pig iron, 217,000 tons, refined steel, 350,000 tons, rolled steel, 169,000 tons, coal, 3,150,000 tons, electric power generators 300,000 kw., cement, 60,000 tons, and timber, 1,280,000 cubic meters. In addition, about 12,000 projects were completed by various communes.

Within the communications and transport sectors, considerable improvement was also achieved. The volume of freight traffic amounted to 73 million tons in 1959, an increase of 52% over 1958. The volume of rail and motor freight rose by 45% and 57% respectively in 1959 compared with the preceding year. Meanwhile, the postal and telegraphic service registered a 45% growth over the 1958 level.

The total volume of retail trade in 1959 was 23.5% higher than 1958. Total procurement by the commerce department in 1959 exceeded that of 1958 by 43%. Of these, purchases of agricultural subsidiary products rose by 26%, and of food by 7%. Commodity stocks of the commerce department by year-end 1959 were 32% greater than year-end 1958.

National income in Kirin in 1959 was 26% higher than in 1958, and revenue, 37%. Owing to the rapid industrial growth in our province, its economic significance to the nation has been rising rapidly. The following is a partial list of commodity supplies from Kirin to the state together with their respective magnitudes as indicated by percentages of total national supplies: electric power, 27%; timber, 30%; motor vehicles, 96%; chemical fertilizers, 97%; paper, 80%; sugar, 33%; food grains, 29%; and soybeans, 54%.

In 1959, the provincial economy achieved an even better all-round big leap forward because of the thorough implementation of the policy of simultaneous development of industry and agriculture, and of heavy and light industry, with emphasis on the former. A high speed, proportionate improvement was registered in all sectors of the economy in 1959. The rate of increase of heavy and light industry and agriculture was all very high. These facts have fully demonstrated the high degree of harmony and proportionality between the various departments. Compared with 1958, the total value of industrial output increased by 32.2%, and agriculture by 17.2%. Agricultural production increased at a relatively faster rate, the ratio between the rates of industrial and agricultural growth was 1.7 to one (2.3 to one in 1958). In 1959, the industrial supply of agricultural production materials was also 36% higher than in 1958. Owing to the exceedingly good harvest in 1959, material supplies to light industry also exceeded in 1958 level by 23%. Within the industrial sector, output of heavy industry rose by 33.9%, and light industry by 29% in 1959.

Compared with the previous year, the rate of growth was relatively faster in light industry. The ratio between the rates of growth of the heavy and light industry was 1.2 to one in 1959 (4.5 to one in 1958).

Certain weaker links in the national economy had an even more rapid growth. In the field of transport, for example, the volume of freight traffic by modern means rose 57% and that by simple conventional means rose by 47%. In both cases, the rate of growth was higher than that of industry and agriculture. In electricity, supply of electric power in 1959 was 23% higher than the 1958 level. The output of power generating equipment was double the 1958 figure. As a result, the power supply situation was greatly improved.

During the 1959 great leap forward, both state-run, big and modern enterprises as well as locally-run, medium and small enterprises operated by simple conventional methods, made tremendous progress. The total value of industrial production of Kirin in 1959 was 32.5% higher than the preceding year. The majority of the small and medium enterprises producing iron, steel, cement, and petroleum, using simple, conventional methods, which had been established in 1958, expanded their output greatly, and improved their technique after a thorough inspection. Accordingly, output of modern iron rose from 50% to 95% of the national total between 1958 and 1959, modern steel from 82% to 99%, and modern cement from 23% to 85%. The utilization coefficient of small blast furnaces rose from 0.411 tons to 0.804 tons between January and December 1959. Similarly, the percentage of quality approval of pig iron made by small blast furnaces rose to 93%, while the cost of production per ton of pig iron declined by 44% during 1959.

All workers continued to advance in 1959 in the communist style as characterized by a practical spirit, a sense of daring in thought, speech and action as well as by energy, perseverance and ingenuity. They struggled together for technical innovations on an ever-increasing scale, bringing out better and faster production. During the great leap forward of 1959, more than 1.4 million items of inventions and sound suggestions were made by workers of various industries, of which more than 700,000 have been successfully adopted. They were of great importance either with respect to cost reduction, or in the improvements of labor efficiency and technological advancement. The productivity of workers in the department of industry was about 7% higher last year. Also, as a result of a big leap forward in technological skill, a large variety of new articles were trial-produced. The most significant items were: 12,000-kilowatt steam turbine generators, Ch'an-ch'un, No. 40 (iron Buffalo) tractors, locomotives, sleepers, modern reaping machines, modern power threshing machines, bulldozers and potato cultivating machines. There was a general improvement in the quality of industrial output, while the cost of

production of locally-run enterprises was reduced by about 6% in 1959. Progress was also registered in basic construction, commerce, communications, and transport with regard to their costs as well as coordination and the rate of development.

Along with great economic growth, there was a corresponding development of education, science, and culture. Full-time institutions of higher education reported more than 30,000 students in 1959. Total enrollment in various types of secondary schools reached 350,000 and that of primary schools, 196,000. There was also a great expansion in scientific research institutes, both independent ones and those belonging to institutions of higher learning, economic departments and enterprise. Considerable achievements were also made in the fields of sports and public health.

As a consequence of the big leap forward in industry, agriculture and in productivity, the living standards of the people of Kirin rose considerably. Total wages for 1959 rose by 30% from the 1958 level. Average wages rose 5% (excluding new workers). State outlays for workers' insurance funds, medical expenses, welfare funds and collective amenities went up by 40%. The average income of members of rural Peoples' Communes was about 15% higher than in 1958. Among the inventory of consumer goods of the commerce department, grains rose by 18%, sugar 27.8%, beverages 49%, tobacco 34%, cotton piece goods 11%, knitted goods 67%, rubber shoes 23%, soap 47%, radios 61%. Since the last quarter of 1959, the supply of subsidiary foodstuffs such as meat, eggs, fowls, and fish had also increased to varying degrees. In order to safeguard the gradual improvement of income of the majority of commune members, there had been an increase in accumulation of funds. This was also true in savings with an increase by 42.2%. In the meantime, with a general stability prevailing in 1959, the retail price index declined by about 0.5%.

The communes played a very important role in the continued leap forward of the economy in 1959. In spite of the gravest drought which Kirin had encountered in many decades, agricultural production still made big headway. This was because the Peoples' Communes, being large in scale and highly collectivized, were able to organize effectively their members to wage a heroic struggle against natural calamities, and put in force the "eight major measures" for increasing farm production. The leading achievements included: land aforested, 260,000 hectares; pigs, 2,428,000, or 24.7% more than in 1958. The number of cattle, horses and larger livestock was also higher. Large-scale water conservation work was continued in 1959. An additional 3,600 kilos of land were brought under irrigation. The total earth and stone work completed in 1959 was 7,700 cubic meters. In 1959, the area sown to better seeds of various kinds of farm produce was 62% of the

total sown area. There was also great improvement in the supply of fertilizers, soil, seeds, management, and farm equipment.

The superiority of the communes also manifested themselves in the great expansion of industry in rural areas. The total output value of commune-run industry rose by 50.2% in 1959 compared with 1958. The growth of commune-run industry led to the improvement of farm and transport equipment, the expansion of semi-processing facilities for farm and subsidiary rural products, the increase in labor productivity on the farms and the income of their members.

The communes also accounted for the vigorous development of cultural, educational and public health work in the rural areas. By the end of 1959, commune-run high schools numbered 55 and primary schools 3,400. There were 11,000 cultural centers, libraries and clubs operated by communes. The number of commune-run dining halls exceeded 36,000; nurseries and kindergartens, 25,000; homes for the aged, about 600.

The great accomplishments of 1959 have effectively demonstrated the absolute soundness of the general policy for socialist construction, the big leap forward rate of growth, and the people's communization as adopted by the Party and Chairman Mao. On the basis of the great triumphs of 1959, the people of Kirin Province are striving with confidence for a continued leap forward in the national economy in 1960.

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